



newsletter no 3 autumn 1997

THE VICTORY

STAPLEFORD

PHONE: SANDIACRE 120.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, February 1, 2, 3.

CONSTANCE BENNETT in THE EASIEST WAY

With ADOLPHE MENJOU and ANITA PAGE

And LAUREL AND HARDY in
"THE HOOSGOW"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, February 4, 5, 6.

LOWELL SHERMAN in BACHELOR APARTMENT

With IRENE DUNNE and MAE MURRAY

MICKEY MOUSE

BOOK YOUR SEATS

Phone SANDIACRE 120.

PALACE, STAPLEFORD

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 21, 22, 23.

AUSTIN TREVOR & FRANKLYN DYALL

ALIBI

COMEDIES

COMEDIES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 24, 25, 26.

MONSTERS OF THE DEEP

Also MERNA KENNEDY and GLENN TYRON in

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL

COMEDIES

NEWS

COMEDIES

NOTE — MATINEE GOOD FRIDAY, AT 2.30 p.m.

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**Stapleford and Sandiacre
Co-operative Society, Ltd.**

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INTRODUCTION

1996/7 has seen the Society consolidate its position both financially and otherwise, a factor we are very proud of. We are well and truly on the map and knowledge of our existence is spreading far and wide judging by the number of phone calls made to the Secretary. As well as a varied and interesting programme of talks, by far the biggest impact on the Society has been the production of the tea towel featuring well known landmarks of Stapleford. This has contributed in no small way to our continued growth and success, and we are now in a very strong position from which we can build on and further the Society's aims. Now that the Society is financially viable, the next twelve months should see us producing more items for sale, including reproduction of the 6" scale 1913 map of Stapleford.

As well as these 'profit-making' ventures, 1996/7 has also seen the continued progress of the Millennium Project, with a number of new members willing to take part. So far the raw data from the 1891 census has been extracted, and members are now analysing the information in order to get a picture of what Stapleford was like at the turn of the Century. It will be some time before we are ready to go into print, but real progress is being made. We want to be as thorough and accurate as sources allow!

I hope that the next twelve months will be just as rewarding for the Society, and so far the signs point to continued growth and success. This has only been made possible by the interest and enthusiasm of all those involved, and I would like to thank all those who have supported our efforts by attending meetings, offering help, sponsorship, and of course by buying our tea towels! Our only concern is that owing to the lack of articles and other contributions, we have been unable to produce a newsletter/journal on a regular basis. We are not asking for great literary talent so please send those articles in! My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue.

Finally, as the former Chairman I would like to thank all those who have supported me during the last two years. I am very appreciative of all your hard work and wish you well in the future. I will of course be maintaining an interest in the Society, and look forward to attending future meetings when my commitments at home and at work allow. I know I leave the Society in good hands, and I wish the new Chairman, Barbara Brooke well.

Andrea Lowe. Former Chairman.

Report of the 2nd Annual General meeting held on 10 April at the Carnegie Civic and Community Centre.

Election of officers.

Mrs. Andrea Lowe resigned from the office of Chairman owing to pressure from commitments at home and at work. An appreciation of her enthusiasm and our debt of gratitude to her for forming the Society was made by Mrs. Barbara Brooke, our newly elected Chairman. Barbara was the only nominee and was unanimously voted into office by the members present. Other members of the Committee who were re-elected include:-

Barbara Page - Secretary/Treasurer
Peggy Crawford - Events/Programme Organiser
Diane Hough - Project Co-Ordinator.

The position of Newsletter Editor is still vacant, there being no nominations forthcoming.

Review of the last 12 months.

Over the past year our fame has spread, and we have been contacted by several individuals and organisations including a publishing company, the Nottinghamshire Local History Association and the editor of "The Nottinghamshire Historian" looking for suitable articles for inclusion in the Journal.

In December Mrs. Felicity Britton, Charities Information Officer with the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, attended one of our planning meetings, which resulted in her later sending us lots of interesting literature regarding charitable trusts, and obtaining charitable status. Once our Constitution has finally been ratified, we will be able to forward our application to the Charity Commissioners for consideration.

Treasurer's Report.

(A detailed summary of expenditure and receipts up until the end of March 1997 is available from the Secretary/Treasurer on request).

Our finances are in a very healthy state! At the end of March 1996 our balance was £130.47. At the end of March 1997 this has increased to £683.76. This is largely due to the sale of tea towels, cards and pictures. Once again, very many thanks to our artists Michael George and Nigel Brooks. Also thanks are due to the Stapleford Town Council who donated the sum of £50 to our tea towel fund, and who settled the initial account with the manufacturer. This gave us much needed breathing space and very importantly saved us from paying V.A.T.! We have since reimbursed the Town Council.

Subscriptions.

Annual subscriptions will remain at £4, and meeting charges will also stay the same, i.e., £0.50p (members) and £1.00p (non-members).

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

As your newly appointed Chairman, I am sure you would wish me to pay tribute to Andrea Lowe, the former Chairman, whose inspiration, enterprise and determination led to the formation of our Society in 1995. We very much appreciate her efforts which will eventually lead to a much better understanding of the history of our town.

The first two years have certainly been very rewarding and we can look back on a series of interesting well-attended talks, an expanding membership, the acquisition of a number of artifacts and documents, the inauguration of a millennium project "Stapleford in 1900", and a highly successful fund-raising venture in the sale of the Stapleford tea towels, now totalling well over 400 sold!

Over the weekend of the 26th and 27th July, our Society helped the Beeston and District Local History Society celebrate 25 years of life at an exhibition at Roundhill Junior School in Beeston. We were represented by a number of members who helped put together and mount our display, which was also 'staffed' during the two days. The exhibition was very successful and attracted many visitors, and the response to our contribution was extremely encouraging. All in all it was a very worthwhile event for our Society, and I have some photographs of our display panels if anyone is interested in seeing our work!

Finally, there are about ten of us already working on the Millennium Project. If you would like to take part but do not know what to research or how to set about it, please ask. We would love to get you started!

Barbara Brooke.

Chairman.

**STAPLEFORD AFTER DOMESDAY - summary of a talk given
by Margaret Cooper on 11th March 1997.**

Margaret Cooper gave a fascinating talk on what is known of the history of Stapleford in the three hundred years following the Norman Conquest. Speaking without notes, she held her audience captivated throughout the evening.

Soon after the Domesday book was compiled in 1086, the four Englishmen, Goduin, Gladuin, Stapleuin and Ulsi, who are named as the owners of Stapleford, were replaced by Robert de Heriz, a retainer of William Peveril, who was given wide grants of land as builder and custodian of Nottingham Castle. Following civil war in the 12th Century, the Peveril lands were confiscated and Stapleford fell into the hands of Prince John, but the de Heriz family managed to buy it back.

The Saxon church was dedicated to St. Luke and records show a priest taking on shilling and fivepence to Southwell as a chimney tithe in 1171. The 'smoke farthing' by which a farthing (a quarter of a penny) had to be paid for each chimney in the village, means that there were 68 houses in Stapleford, which, about four people in each, makes roughly 250 inhabitants. The new church, dedicated to St Helen, was built in about 1200, mainly funded by the de Heriz family. Tithes were paid to Lenton and Newstead Abbeys, but Newstead, which was responsible for appointing a priest, was so poor that it only provided visiting priests with no vicarage endowed.

Alys de Heriz and her husband John le Palmer, wool merchant and Mayor of Nottingham, had the chapel on Trent bridge restored and later, after her husband's death, Alys undertook the great project of replacing the wooden Trent bridge with a stone bridge, for which purpose the King allowed her to charge additional tolls. She also founded a chantry chapel built onto Stapleford Church, and provided land and money to keep a priest in perpetuity.

Squabbles over tolls being charged for crossing St. Osyth's bridge over the Erewash reached such a pitch in the 12th Century, that Stapleford and Sandiacre are mentioned in national law books of the time, when the King sent commissioners to make binding decisions about the charges to be made.

In 1348 at the time of the Black Death, the deHeriz family gave their money to Newstead Abbey, expecting to be struck down, but, when they survived, reclaimed their gift and spent it all!

Everyone who heard Margaret's talk was delighted to know that she will be returning in October to talk about Goose Fair.

Barbara Brooke.

LAW AND ORDER IN STAPLEFORD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

- extracted from his recently published book by Pc Malcolm Jarvis.

Sir Robert PEEL. Home Secretary in the mid 1880's had already amended a number of Acts of Parliament affecting the County as a whole. Amongst these were, The Habitual Criminals Act 1869, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 relating to females. A number of old Acts had had already been removed prior to the turn of the Century including, The Vagrancy Act of 1495 (poor laws); Whipping, Mutilation, Legal branding of humans Act; The Penal Servitude Act of 1853 (jail sentences) which saw the end of transportation to the Penal Colonies, and capital punishment in public. The last public execution in Nottingham took place on 10th August, 1864 and last execution carried out in the County Gaol took place on 21st November 1877. The last execution to take place in Nottingham was at Bagthorpe Gaol (Perry Road Prison) in 1928.

However, some Acts were to stay in force. The Offences Against the Persons Act of 1861 which dealt with offences of murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm and common assault was such an Act, and is still implemented today. The Larceny Act of 1861 which dealt with offences of theft, burglary and similar crimes was not amended until implementation of the Theft Act 1968.

One Act used in Stapleford was the Locomotives on Highways Act of 1896 (steam traction). However, this Act was to be replaced later with the Motor Car Act of 1903 which made the following provision: "every person driving in charge of a motor car when used on any highway, when meeting any carriage, horse, or cattle, keep the motor car on the left or nearside of the road, and when passing any carriage, horse or cattle proceeding in the same direction, keep the motor car on the right or offside of the same". This Act also covered the registration of motor cars including Earl Russell's famous A1 registration.

On entering the 20th Century, Stapleford expanded very rapidly from a village to a small town, and with it the requirement for more police officers. Prior to the passing of the County Police Act of 1839, Stapleford had to rely on annually elected Parish Constables. There were usually two in Stapleford. The following officers were stationed at Stapleford at the turn of the Century:-

Constable BRANDON

Constable John SIMMONS. Sadly little is known of these two officers.

Constable HALLAM who resided at 40, Birley Street, Stapleford after his retirement on 31st January 1904.

Constable William "Bill" LOMAS who joined the County Police Force on 1st March 1897, and retired on 1st March 1919. During his career at Stapleford he was awarded a bravery medal for his courage in the line of duty whilst apprehending a man caught stealing. He gave chase to the would-be thief along the canal bank and had to wrestle in order to detain him. The offender managed to escape and jumped into the canal whereupon he sank and drowned! Pc Lomas died in 1958 at the age of 92.

Constable Thomas Henry PEPPER, an ex-railwayman lodged at St. James Street, Stapleford with Owen and Jemima Knight. After marriage he and his wife lived in Ash Grove, Stapleford. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1905 and became the first Sergeant to be stationed at Stapleford. He was at Stapleford when the new police station was opened, although he never lived in the Station's Police accommodation.

The majority of people in and around Stapleford were self contained, and the stealing of a person's hard grown food and livestock was treated very seriously. Offenders were dealt with heavily.

Punishments meted out during this period were as follows:-

Theft of chickens.	2 months hard labour
Poaching.	£5 fine
Theft of engineering tools & brass fittings.	3 months hard labour
Receiving the above items.	1 month imprisonment
Cruelty to an animal.	10/- fine
Theft of horsehair (tails).	£1 fine
Robbery at Trowell.	12 years imprisonment
Theft of apples.	£3 fine or 6 weeks hard labour
Theft of apples.	£1:10s fine or 3 weeks imprisonment
Drunk and disorderly.	£1 fine
Damage to fencing.	2s:6d fine.

The age of criminal responsibility was decreed as follows:-

Children under seven years of age cannot be guilty of a criminal offence, as the law considers a child under that age to be without discretion. If over seven and under fourteen it is presumed that they are not criminally responsible for their acts, but this presumption may be rebutted.

Birching of children was as follows:-

When a child who is a male is ordered by the Justices to be birched, the punishment should be inflicted by a Constable in the presence of an Inspector or other Officer of higher rank than a Constable, and also in the presence (if he desires to be present) of the parent or guardian of the child. The Home Secretary has suggested that the rod used for birching children under ten should be lighter than that used in the case of older offenders, and that, if there is reason to suppose that the child is in delicate health, or is naturally of a weak constitution, a medical man should be consulted as to the propriety of the punishment being carried out, or the severity with which it should be inflicted.

Any arrests at Stapleford where detention was deemed necessary required the offender being transported either to the Shirehall in Nottingham, or in the case of minor detention, transportation to the Police cell at Beeston Police Station. Transportation was normally by means of horse and cart, usually borrowed from Farmer Eaton of Eaton's Farm. The Roach, Stapleford (where the Police Station is now situated).

Police uniforms for that era consisted of a helmet, high collar tunic with the Officer's number attached to the high collar (hence today's reference to an officer's collar number), thick belt for use over the tunic, trousers, boots, truncheon, manacles (handcuffs), whistle, cape, gloves and first aid badge for upper arms (if qualified).

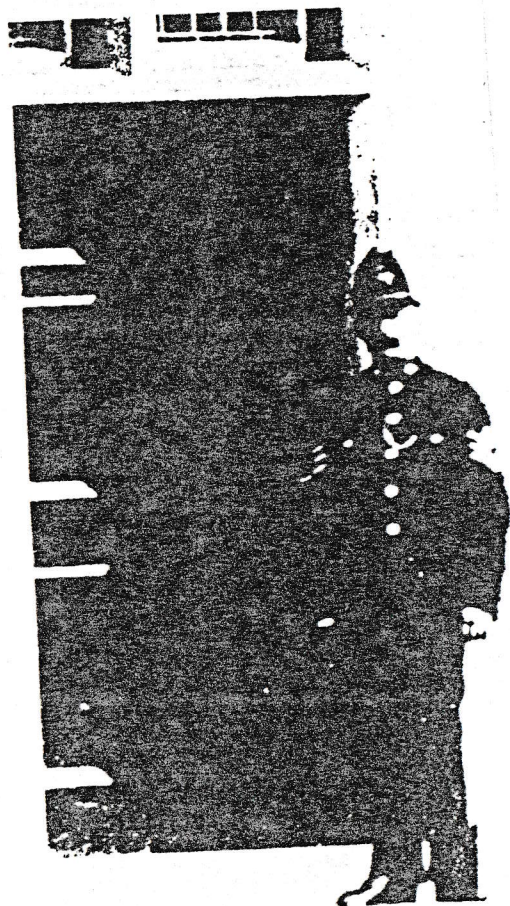
Officers worked seven days a week, fifty two weeks a year, up until 1914 when they were given 1 day off per week. Wages for the period were as follows:-

Constable - £80:12s:1d per year.

Sergeants - £95:16s:3d per year.

Communication to Officers serving at Stapleford by supervisors from the headquarters at the Shirehall was by mail and carried by supervisors on their weekly visits by horseback.

Malcolm Jarvis.



Sgt. Thomas Henry Pepper

PILLATT & CO. LTD., Stapleford, Nottingham.

A Mr. D. Johnson of Newark visited the library recently in order to enquire about information concerning his grandfather's business, Pillatt and Co., Ltd, Stapleford. Pillatt's iron foundry was established on Edward Street in Stapleford at some time between 1908 and 1916, by Andrew Ernest Pillatt, Mr. Johnson's great grandfather. Pillatt's manufactured boilers, man hole covers, combustion furnaces and other items formed from cast iron. Mr. Johnson's grandfather, another Andrew Ernest Pillatt was the managing director of the business until his untimely death in the Edinburgh Infirmary on 25th March, 1937 at the age of 63. The following obituary appeared in the Stapleford and Sandiacre news shortly afterwards:

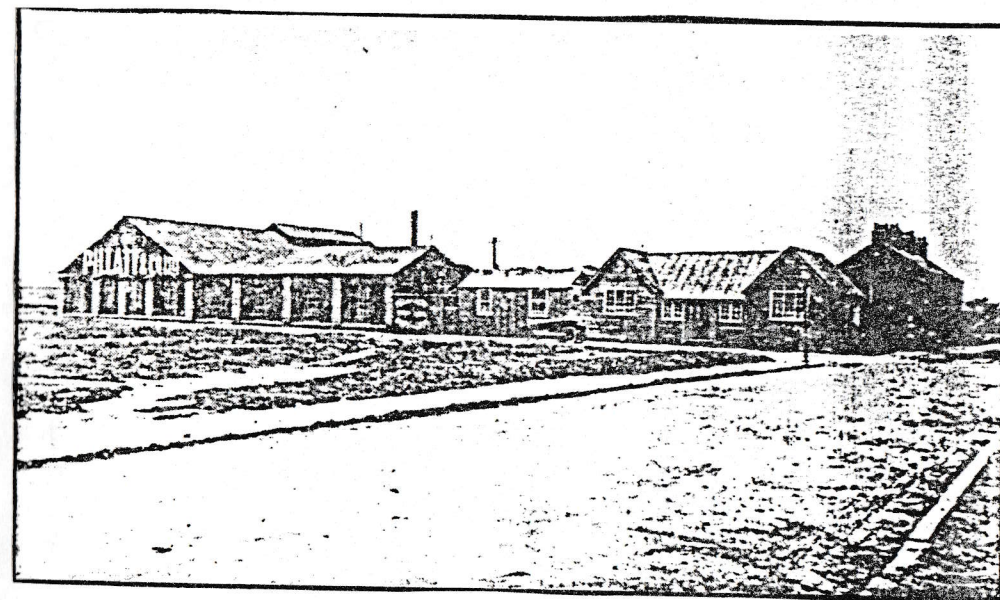
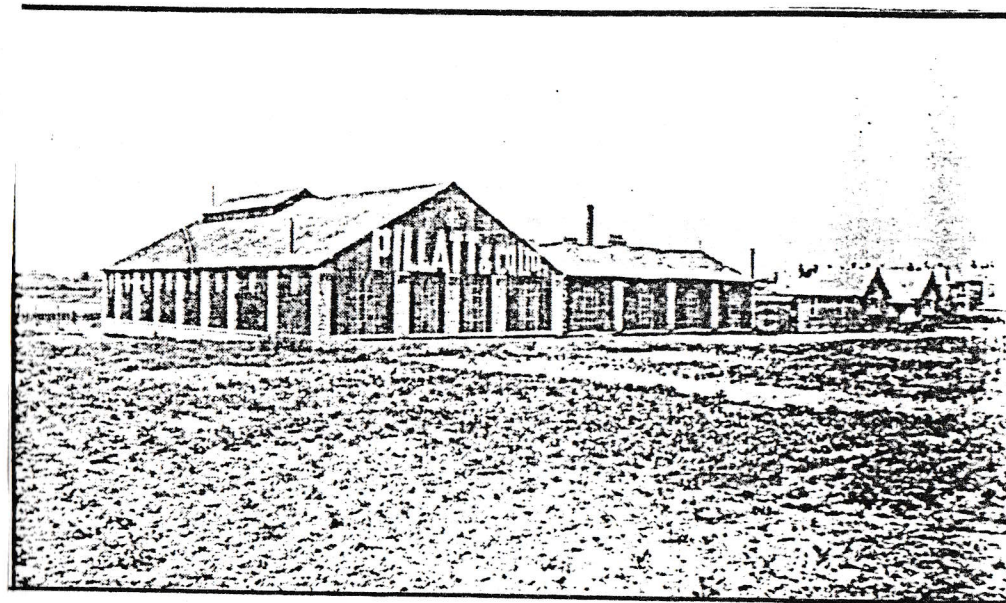
"Whilst waiting on Thursday evening for a train on Edinburgh station, Mr. Andrew Ernest Pillatt (63), a well known Stapleford business man collapsed and died shortly after admission to the Edinburgh Infirmary. He was about to return home for the holidays at the conclusion of a business trip. Mr. Pillatt, who resided at Mill House, Stapleford, was the managing director of Messrs. Pillatt and Co., Ltd., ironfounders of Stapleford. Well known and respected locally, he was a member of hemlock Stone Lodge of Freemasons and was formally connected with St. Helen's Parish Church as a warden. The artistic iron gates leading to the Churchyard were a tribute to his ability in design...."

The iron gates referred to were part of the improvements to the Church undertaken in 1923, the same year that the Memorial Chapel was erected, and were supplied by Wellington College.

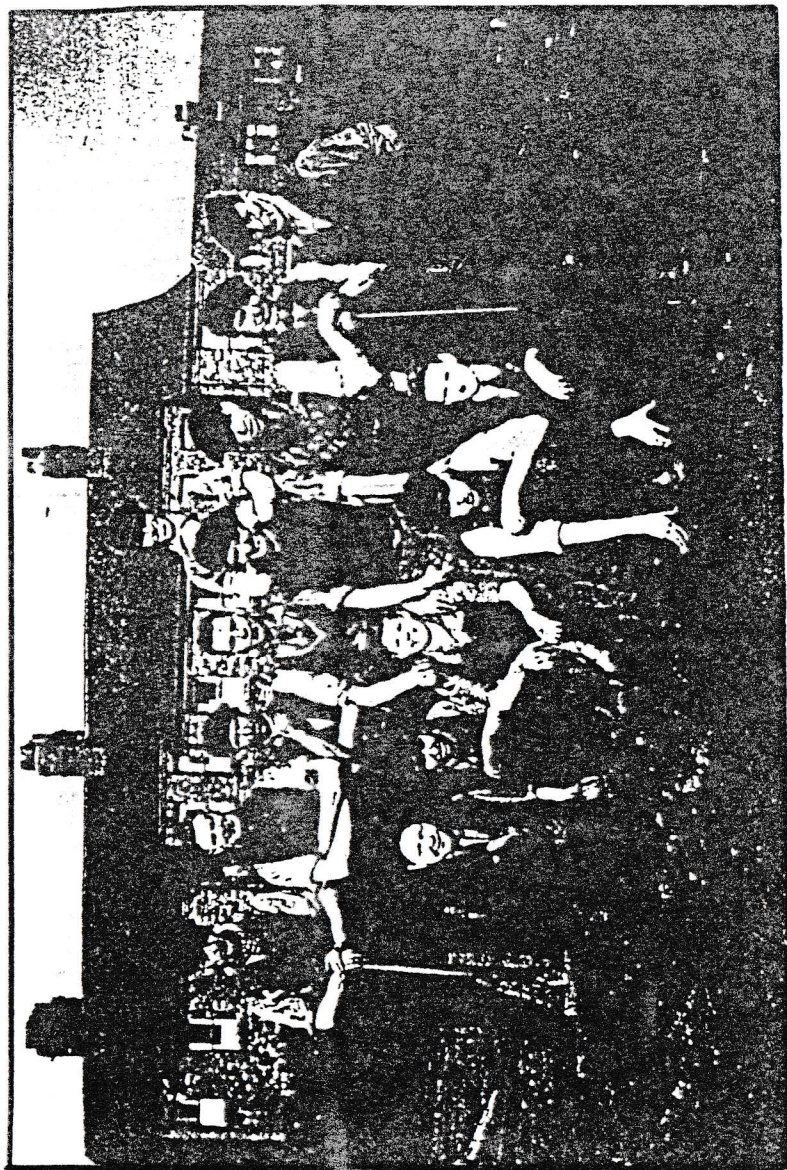
Unfortunately very little is known of Pillatt's, and it seems to have gone into decline after Andrew Pillatt's death. It was eventually sold to Riley, an American company associated with International Combustion of Derby, but never recovered its former position. The foundry closed in the late 1950's (1958/9) and remained derelict for some time. In 1959 there was an article in the Stapleford and Sandiacre News reporting that poltergeist activity had been witnessed in the immediate vicinity of the foundry. The council was asked what it was going to do about it as the premises were clearly dangerous, with metal objects and slates narrowly missing passers by on Edward Street. It is likely that the 'poltergeist' activity was due mainly to the work of mischief makers and general dereliction than to the work of a supernatural force. However, the foundry was eventually demolished in the early 1960's. I have not managed to find any local press coverage which would indicate exactly when the works were demolished.

Little else is known about Pillatt's and its impact on Stapleford and I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has more information. Mr. Johnson, and former employee of Pillatt's, Mr. Severn have kindly loaned some photographs to the library for reproduction. Hopefully I will be able to include more information on Pillatt's in a future edition of the journal.

Andrea Lowe.



Pillatt & Co. Ltd in the 1920's



Former employees of Platt & Co in the 1930's

Cyril Lattimer

Ted Winfield Cyril Borsby Bill Fletcher Les Dews Fred Allen Fred Green ??
? Cyril Moo Bonnie Bowles Douglas Fisher Les Severn

A GLANCE AT THE ARCHIVE CONCERNING THE STAPLEFORD ESTATE.

In the 19th Century the Stapleford estate changed hands on a number of occasions. By studying the sale catalogues produced at the time a wealth of information can be gathered about some of the inhabitants of Stapleford living at that particular time.

From the sale catalogue of 7th April 1856, we have a list of the estate tenants. One of these tenants was Sarah Butler aged 72, who was to hold the post office house, weavers shop and other buildings for life at a nominal rent of one shilling (5p) per annum. From the plan this property would appear to be near the present Conservative club. The Warren Arms was rented by Elizabeth Barton, and Peter Kent was in possession of the water mill, Mill House, another house, stables, yards, gardens and various other properties.

Another house to the left of the Church was occupied by Millicent Halsworth aged 84 and held for life, together with a wash house, yard and garden. Her neighbour was William Wootton who occupied the adjoining property.

Opposite the Church lived Charlotte Atkin aged 62 who held the property for life, and the purchaser of this lot was to keep the property in good repair during her lifetime.

Three cottages near the lodge gates were rented by William Butler, George Kirkby and John Kirkby. Richard and Ann Eaton rented two houses, a blacksmith's and a shop on the present Eatons Road.

There was a shop on the site of the present Midland bank rented by William Birch. Another holder for life was Hugh Gordon Broom aged 41 whom we find as a witness on contracts between Lady Warren and her various employees in 1837 when Gordon would have been 22. I assume he was bailiff following the death in 1834 of another Hugh Broom, presumably his father. The grave stone of Hugh Broom senior can be found today opposite the East window of the Church.

Nigel Brooks...

QUIZ

1. In what year was Arthur Mee born? 1875
2. When was Stapleford fire station opened? 1909 1914
3. When was the Palace Theatre opened? Richard Attenborough
4. Who opened the Carnegie Civic and Community Centre in 1989? David Attenborough
5. Who is his famous brother, and who was his grandfather?
6. Who had a horse called "Old Careless"? John Baleshals
7. Which saint was the original parish church dedicated to? St. John
8. Who was the first headmaster of the Stapleford Board School on Church Street? George Manley
9. In what year did John Wesley preach in Stapleford? 1774 1780
10. What was 'Warren Avenue' originally called? Andrew Carnegie
11. Which famous Scottish-born benefactor contributed the sum of £2,000 towards the building of a public library in Stapleford?
12. In what year was Sir John Borlase Warren born? 1753 - 1822
13. Who was the foundress of St. John's School?
14. Where did Stapleford's saxon cross originally stand?
15. What is the origin of "The Roach"?

All answers are to be found in books on Stapleford in the Library's local studies collection!

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